

IN THE SPECIFICATION

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--Figure 2 is a system according to an embodiment of the present invention.

Figure 3 is a flowchart showing the steps performed by an embodiment of the present invention.

Figure 4 is a flowchart showing the steps performed by another embodiment of the present invention.

Figure 5 is a flowchart showing the steps performed by an embodiment of the present invention that uses an algorithm.

Figure 6 is a flowchart showing the process of returning to the same or a similar system state upon log-on.

Figure 7 is a flowchart showing the process of returning to the same or a similar system state upon log-on using factors.

Figure 8 is a flowchart showing the process of using an algorithm to switch system states.

Figure 9 is a flowchart showing another process of using an algorithm to switch system states.

Figure 10 is a flowchart showing the manner in which group users are implemented.

Figure 11 is a flowchart showing how previous use states and preferences allow the controller to return to a previous state.--

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--Figure 6 shows the process of returning to the same or a similar system state upon log-on. At block 600, a user accesses a controller using a bio-metric input. At block 605, the controller receives a different bio-metric input. At block 610, the controller establishes a system state that is the same or similar to the previously used state. Finally at block 615, access is provided to a consumer device.

Figure 7 shows how various factors may be used to return to a previous state. At block 700 a user accesses a controller using a bio-metric input. At block 705, the controller receives a different bio-metric input. At block 710 the controller accesses a previously used state by choosing one or more of a screen last viewed, a time of day or night of log-in or log-off, a content data displayed, a selection made, and a navigation history used. At block 715, the controller establishes a system state that is the same or similar to the previously used state. Finally at block 720, access is provided to a consumer device.

Figure 11 shows how previous use states and preferences allow the controller to return to a previous state. At block 1100 a user accesses a controller using a bio-metric input. At block 1110, the controller receives a different bio-metric input from a different user. At block 1120 the controller obtains the different user's previously used state. At block 1130 the controller obtains the different

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user's preferences. At block 1140, the controller establishes a system state based on the previously used state and the preferences. Finally at block 1150, access is provided to a consumer device.--

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--Figure 8 shows the process of using an algorithm to switch system states. At block 800 a user accesses a controller using a bio-metric input. At block 805 the controller provides access to a first set of functionality. At block 810 an algorithm is used that incorporates at least one factor. At block 815, it is determined if the algorithm requires switching states. If not, block 810 repeats. Otherwise, the system switches to a second system state at block 820.

Figure 9 shows another process of using an algorithm to switch system states. At block 900 a user accesses a controller using a bio-metric input. At block 910 the controller provides access to a first set of functionality. At block 920 an algorithm is used that incorporates a factor including a category of use and/or a subject matter of an activity within a category of use. At block 930, it is determined if the algorithm requires switching states. If not, block 910 repeats. Otherwise, the system switches to a second system state at block 940.--

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--Figure 10 shows the manner in which a group user may be implemented. At block 1000, a group user including at least a first and a second user is defined. At block 1010 a group user is established from the first or the second user. At block 1020, it is determined if there is input from the first or second user. If not, block 1010 repeats. Otherwise, the group user state is modified at block 1030.--
